Remarks

The Examiner's reconsideration of the application is urged in view of the amendments made herein.

In the Office Action of June 13, 2006, page 3, point 1, the Examiner rejects claims 1, 15 and 28 (the independent claims) under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakamoto (US 5,594,463A). Reconsideration is requested.

Amended claims 1, 15 and 28 are filed herewith. In the new method claim 1, the step "calculating OLED lifetime and light output" has been added and in the last step of claim 1, the words: "such that OLED lifetime and light output are optimized" have been added. These amendments are based on the description, pages 23-24, the paragraph: "Step 320: Calculating OLED lifetime and light output" and page 25, lines 8-16. A further basis for these amendments can also be found in Fig. 3, steps 320 and 324.

Independent claims 15 and 28 have been amended in a similar way.

Amended claim 1 describes a method for optimizing lifetime of an OLED display element comprising a plurality of OLED pixels, whereby the method comprises for an OLED pixel the following steps:
a. determining an environmental parameter affecting aging of an OLED pixel
b. determining a first operational parameter indicative of aging of the OLED pixel
c. calculating the OLED pixel lifetime and light output
d. compensating at least partly for aging by changing a second operating parameter of the OLED pixel based on the determination of the environmental parameter and the first operational parameter in a way that the OLED pixel lifetime and light output are optimized.

In Sakamoto a driving circuit for a display apparatus is disclosed; according to Fig. 8 of Sakamoto, which gives a flow chart of the operation of such a driving circuit, this operation comprises the steps of;

- estimating the voltage drop (Vf) of an EL element on the basis of the measurement of a voltage difference (Vx) (step S110)

- correcting this voltage drop (Vf) on the basis of a temperature measurement (step S128)
- estimating a minimum necessary driving voltage (Vd) for driving the EL element (step 112)
- setting (under certain conditions) this estimated voltage as driving voltage of the EL element.

In Sakamoto there is no mention of optimizing the lifetime of the EL element. Sakamoto merely discloses a feedback circuit allowing a reduction of energy consumption by setting the driving voltage to a minimum limit value to function the driving device (col. 2: 24-27). The goal of Sakamoto is thus different from the one in the method of amended claim 1, and does not include the steps claimed by Applicant.

Also in the amended claim 1 different means are used. In the driving circuit according to Sakamoto there is no step for calculating lifetime and light output of the EL element. In the present invention, this step is essential in order to make possible a compensation in which lifetime and light output of the OLED pixel are optimized.

Amended claim 1 is novel over Sakamoto.

The method for optimizing the lifetime of an OLED display element as described in new claim 1 is not disclosed in any of the other documents cited in the O.A. This method is thus novel over the prior art.

The subject matter of method of amended claim 1 is also non-obvious over the cited prior art.

Patent document Numao (JP 2002278514A) discloses a system for correcting luminance and hue in organic EL elements; there is no indication, suggestion, motivation, or hint in Numao for calculating lifetime or light output of the EL element or for using the results of this calculation for compensating aging in a way that lifetime and light output are optimized.

In the other cited documents, any indication, suggestion, motivation, or hint in relation with a calculation of lifetime and light output of an EL element and the use of the results of such

calculation for optimizing the control of the EL element in view of lifetime and light output is also missing.

It can thus been concluded that amended claim 1 is novel and non-obvious over the prior art.

The same reasoning can be applied to the two other amended independent claims 15 and 28.

All other claims being dependent claims, they are also novel and non-obvious over the prior art.

Given the above, it is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance, and the Examiner's further and favorable reconsideration in that regard is urged.

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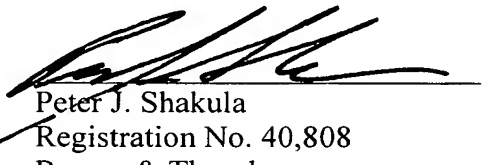
Respectfully submitted,



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